THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) As the funds under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) are released in instalments based on the progress reported by the State, State-wise allocation of funds is not envisaged under RGGVY.

As reported by Uttarakhand Government, out of total 15,761 revenue villages, 15199 (96.4%) are electrified. Balance 562 villages are to be electrified by grid (357) and non-grid (171). Out of 11.85 lakh rural households, 6.87 lakh rural households are electrified. Out of balance 4.98 lakh unelectrified households, Uttarakhand Government intends to cover 3.57 lakh rural households under RGGVY.

(b) and (c) All the un-electrified villages, except remote villages covered under electrification programme of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), are envisaged to be electrified by 2009 under RGGVY.

Ministry of Power has already sanctioned projects for all the 13 districts of Uttarakhand with an outlay of Rs.643.89 crore. The State has reported that works have been carried out in 968 un-electrified and 2332 electrified villages as also release of 38424 rural household connections including 37,016 BPL household connections as on 24th August, 2007. Uttarakhand has so far availed Rs.355.61 crore under RGGVY.

The State has reported that the Scheduled Tribe villages are also covered in this scheme. However, 171 villages which are far away from grid line and are situated in forest area are meant to be electrified by non-conventional energy sources. Ministry of Power as also Rural Electrification Corporation have been regularly conducting the review meeting and impressing upon the State Government/State power utility for timely attainment of the sanctioned targets in the State.

Power to Andhra Pradesh from Southern Region

2235. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether over 3,400 MW of wind power generation came to a halt on 22nd June, 2007, as the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board asked wind mill owners to stop generation;

(b) whether the above situation arise due to surplus power generation;

(c) if so, whether any measures are being taken on the request of the Andhra Pradesh Government to provide unallocated surplus power from Southern Region to the State, which is facing power shortages;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) According to the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, wind mill generation of about 700 MW (against the installed capacity of 3535 MW) was blocked on 22.06.2007 as a

measure of grid security in view of high frequency condition prevailing in the Southern Regional Grid due to low demand.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of answer to part (c) of the question.

Use of gas received in lieu of setting up of a power plant in Nigeria

†2236. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC has entered into an agreement with Government of Nigeria to set up power plant in Nigeria and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the main condition of this agreement is that Nigeria would supply gas to NTPC;

(c) if so, the quantum thereof and the time-frame by when the gas would be supplied;

(d) whether NTPC would utilize this gas for its own purpose or it would sell this gas to other companies also; and

(e) the action to be taken in the event of stoppage of supply, due to any reason, after setting up of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. NTPC Ltd. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Energy, Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) for setting up power plants in Nigeria subject to conditions that FGN will provide, subject to availability, at least three million tonnes of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) per annum at reasonable price on long term basis for a period of 25 years from its existing/future LNG plants where operation is likely to begin in next 5 to 6 years. Upon successful operation of above commitment by FGN, NTPC Ltd. will set up, subject to technical feasibility, a 500 MW coal based and a 700 MW gas based power plant in Nigeria. The MoU constitutes only a broad-based understanding in respect of mutual cooperation between FGN and NTPC Ltd. for participation in the economic growth of the two countries.

(d) As per MOU, NTPC would utilize this gas for its own gas power stations in India and the gas is not for sale to other companies.

(e) NTPC proposes to incorporate appropriate provisions like arbitration and settlement of disputes in International courts, etc. in the specific agreements for LNG supply by FGN and setting up of power plants by NTPC, to protect its interests in the event of stoppage of supply due to any reason after setting up of the plant.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.